> the days and nights are made hideous by electric cars, on the one side, and railway traffic passes directly by the south wall, where a freight shunting yard is also located. (1906, 5)

The Asylum grounds have dwindled to "some 26 acres ... enclosed within gaol-like walls" (1906, 5). With the extra aggravation of "smoke from the many trains and factories in the neighbourhood" (1906, 5), Clarke concludes that "a more undesirable site for a hospital for the insane could not be selected" (1906, 5).

Besides the problem of its location are the Asylum's perennial problems of heating, plumbing, and ventilation. Clarke reiterates some old complaints:

> at the present time, many of the wards are so cold that the patients suffer severely during the winter. This is particularly the case in the wards of the main building, the long corridors of which are, at times, too cold to be occupied by delicate patients. (1906, 4)

The hot water is still inadequately supplied by "some twenty-six (26) isolated boilers, scattered here and there" (1906, 4). The plumbing is "deplorable," a study for anyone interested in comparing "the sanitation methods of sixty years ago with those of the present" (1906, 5). Tents for separate accommodation of tubercular patients have to be erected on the grounds in the early summer:

> The wards are fearfully overcrowded; the cases of tuberculosis many, and the conditions all favorable, for the spread of this disease, which is nearly always rampant in hospitals for the Insane. (1906, 9)

Unsuited buildings have been adapted and annexed to accommodate the excess population of "quiet, indigent" chronic patients. Now the former Mercer Reformatory is re-equipped:

> structural changes have been made, which have done away with the prison arrangements that existed, and before the end of a few months the Mercer will be made quite as home like as any part of the main asylum. (1906, 9)